

Claims 1-60 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Humpleman et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,288,716 ("Humpleman"). The Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants' invention, as defined by independent claims 1, 21, and 41, involves registering information associated with a virtual representation of a device at a remote site. A remote site is defined by applicants as being remote to an installation (see, e.g., FIG. 1 and corresponding description in applicant's specification).

The Examiner contends that Humpleman teaches all aspects of applicant's claimed invention including the registration of information associated with a virtual representation of a device at a remote site. Contrary to the Examiner's contention, Humpleman fails to show or suggest registering any information at a remote site. The Humpleman system consists of a "home network" to which home devices are connected. A control apparatus is also connected to the home network and is used to control the home devices. All information is contained within the locality of the home network. Humpleman makes no mention of communicating any information outside of the home network much less registering

information regarding a virtual representation of a device at a remote site.

For at least the above reasons, independent claims 1, 21, and 41 are in condition for allowance. Claims 2-20, 22-40, and 42-60, which depend from respective independent claims 1, 21, and 41, are also in condition for allowance.

In view of the forgoing, applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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